

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-12 are currently pending. Claims 1-2 have been canceled; and Claims 3-12 have been amended by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,728,199 to Obata et al.; and Claims 3-12 were allowed. Applicants note that although the outstanding Office Action states “Claims 2-13 are allowed,”¹ it appears that this discrepancy is a typographical error in the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action fails to indicate whether the drawings were accepted, and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the acceptance of the drawings in a subsequent Office communication.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot.

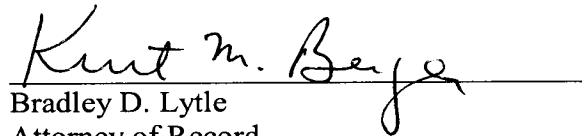
Claims 3-12 have been amended to address matters of form only, and are believed to be allowable as indicated by the outstanding Office Action.

¹ Outstanding Office Action, page 3, line 4.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,047

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

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